

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-07 ARA-06

COME-00 SY-05 IO-13 MCT-01 TRSE-00 /112 W

-----060950Z 080652 /17

P R 031615Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 866

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINR AO

SUBJECT: UNREST IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 123813

1. CONVERSATION JUNE 2 WITH OFFICIAL OF THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF CURRENT UNREST IN ANGOLA.

2. ALVES FAILED TO FOLLOW THE MAJORITY LINE AS REQUIRED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALIZATION AND AS RESULT WAS REMOVED FROM THE LEADERSHIP LAST OCTOBER.

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HE HAD RETURNED FROM THE 25TH CONFERENCE OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, A FIRM SUPPORTER OF THE SOVIET LINE. HE BELIEVED THAT ANGOLA'S ONLY FOREIGN TIES SHOULD BE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT ANGOLA SHOULD FOLLOW THE SOVIET MODEL OF SOCIALISM. HE FAVORED IGNORING THE PEASANTS IN FAVOR OF THE URBAN WORKERS. AT THE SAME TIME ALVES ALSO FAVORED PREDOMINANCE OF RACIALLY POOR BLACKS

OF MIXED BLOOD AND WHITES.

3. IN MARCH THE MPLA LEADERSHIP DECIDED TO HOLD A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER 1977 TO DEFINITELY RESOLVE ALVES' POSITION. SINCE OCTOBER 1976 HE HAD BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT HIS VIEWS AND JOIN THE MAJORITY RULE. WHILE NETO WAS TRAVELING IN POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA, HOWEVER, ALVES ENCOURAGED UREST IN LUANDA WHICH REQUIRED POLICE INTERVENTION. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP DECIDED TO HOLD A CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY TO DEAL WITH ALVES, WHO FOUGHT FOR HIS POSITION UNSUCCESSFULLY ALTHOUGH WITH BRILLIANT ORATORY.

4. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN SECRETARIAL OFFICIAL, FOOD HAS BEEN IN SHORT SUPPLY IN LUANDA FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS. HE SPECULATED THAT ALVES AND HIS SUPPORTERS DELIBERATELY ENCOURAGED THIS SITUATION TO PRODUCE UNREST. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT FORCES ALVES COMMANDED BY SOURCE SPECULATED THAT HE MAY HAVE HAD ARMY TROOPS. ALVES' FORCES SEIZED THE RADIO BUT INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH NEVER ATTACKED NETO HIMSELF IN THEIR BROADCASTS. AS FAR AS FOREIGN SECRETARIAT KNOWS, CUBAN TROOPS WERE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING, CERTAINLY NOT ON THE SIDE OF ALVES. SOURCE SAID CUBANS FORM A RESERVE AND PERSONAL BODYGUARD FOR NETO. HE SPECULATED THAT ALVES MUST HAVE HAD "SOMEONE BEHIND HIM" AND IMPLIED THAT THE RUSSIANS GAVE HIM SUPPORT. SOURCE SPECULATED THAT FAILURE OF SUCH A RUSSIAN-BACKED REBELLION TO KILL NETO AT A TIME WHEN OTHER SENIOR LEADERS

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FROM THE MPLA WERE EXECUTED MIGHT MEAN DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN RUSSIANS AND CUBANS GUARDING NETO.

5. CURRENT SITUATION IS UNCLEAR. TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE EMBASSY IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS REVEALED SMALL ARMS FIRE STILL CAN BE HEARD IN LUANDA. FSFA INITIALLY THOUGHT FIGHTING CONFIRMED TO LUANDA BUT LATER LEARNED TO OF UNREST OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL.

6. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION YUGOSLAV JOURNALIST DREW A DIFFERENT PICTURE OF ALVES WHO HAD BEEN DRINKING PARTNER ON OCCASION. JOURNALIST SAID ALVES HAD BEEN PRO-SOVIET BUT WAS NOW FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. JOURNALIST SAID THAT NON PRO-SOVIETS LIKE LOPE DE NASCIMENTO STILL IN THE NETO GOVERNMENT INDICATE THAT THIS WAS NOT A STRUGGLE BETWEEN PRO-SOVIET ALVES AND MORE INDEPENDENT NETO GROUP.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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